Docket No.   AUS920010645US1

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1.   A method of collaborative voting, comprising:
5   receiving a request for voter voting information;
           providing the requested voter voting information in
an anonymous manner such that the identities of
individual voters are not disclosed; and
           receiving a vote based on the voter voting
10   information.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a request
for voter voting information includes receiving a
selection of one or more voter categories for which voter
15   voting information is to be provided.

3.   The method of claim 2, wherein the one or more voter
categories are based on one or more of age, race, gender,
income level, occupation, and political party
20   affiliation.

4.   The method of claim 2, wherein the one or more voter
categories are based on demographic information.

25   5.   The method of claim 2, wherein the one or more voter
categories are based on voter affiliations with other
voters.

6.   The method of claim 5, wherein the voter
30   affiliations with other voters are identified by a group
identifier.

Docket No. AUS920010645US1

7.   The method of claim 1, wherein providing the requested voter voting information includes outputting the voter voting information in a graphical form on a display device.

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8.   The method of claim 2, wherein providing the requested voter voting information includes providing voter voting information for each of the one or more voter categories selected.

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9.   The method of claim 2, wherein providing the requested voter voting information includes providing voter voting information for a combination of the one or more voter categories selected.

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10.   The method of claim 8, wherein providing the requested voter voting information further includes providing voter voting information for a combination of the one or more voter categories selected.

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11.   The method of claim 1, wherein providing the requested voter voting information includes providing a dynamically updated display of the requested voter voting information.

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12.   The method of claim 1, wherein providing the requested voter voting information includes providing voter comments entered by voters included in the voter voting information.

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13.   The method of claim 1, wherein the request for voter voting information includes a request for voter voting

Docket No. AUS920010645US1

information for voters having similar characteristics as a user that submitted the request.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein providing the
5 requested voter voting information includes:
        retrieving characteristics for the user; and
        searching a voter database for voter entries
corresponding to one or more of the characteristics for
the user.
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15. The method of claim 13, wherein providing the
requested voter voting information includes providing a
ranking of an amount of similarity between other voters'
characteristics and the user's characteristics.
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16. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a vote
based on the voter voting information includes receiving
an indication of whether the vote is permanent or
non-final.
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17. The method of claim 16, wherein if the vote is
non-final, the vote may be changed within a predetermined
period of time from when the vote was received.

25 18. The method of claim 1, wherein the voter voting
information includes information regarding non-final
votes and permanent votes cast by voters, and wherein
providing the voter voting information includes providing
non-final votes in a format different from permanent
30 votes.

Docket No. AUS920010645US1

19. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
storing an indication of the vote in association with voter characteristic information of the voter that submitted the vote.

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20. The method of claim 19, wherein storing an indication of the vote further includes storing an indication of the status of the vote as being either non-final or permanent.

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21. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for providing collaborative voting, comprising:
first instructions for receiving a request for voter voting information;

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second instructions for providing the requested voter voting information in an anonymous manner such that the identities of individual voters are not disclosed; and
third instructions for receiving a vote based on the

20 voter voting information.

22. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the first instructions for receiving a request for voter voting information include instructions for receiving a

25 selection of one or more voter categories for which voter voting information is to be provided.

23. The computer program product of claim 22, wherein the one or more voter categories are based on one or more

30 of age, race, gender, income level, occupation, and political party affiliation.

Docket No.   AUS920010645US1

24.   The computer program product of claim 22, wherein the one or more voter categories are based on demographic information.

5   25.   The computer program product of claim 22, wherein the one or more voter categories are based on voter affiliations with other voters.

26.   The computer program product of claim 25, wherein
10   the voter affiliations with other voters are identified by a group identifier.

27.   The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the second instructions for providing the requested voter
15   voting information include instructions for outputting the voter voting information in a graphical form on a display device.

28.   The computer program product of claim 22, wherein
20   the second instructions for providing the requested voter voting information include instructions for providing voter voting information for each of the one or more voter categories selected.

25   29.   The computer program product of claim 22, wherein the second instructions for providing the requested voter voting information include instructions for providing voter voting information for a combination of the one or more voter categories selected.
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30.   The computer program product of claim 28, wherein the second instructions for providing the requested voter

Docket No. AUS920010645US1

voting information further include instructions for
providing voter voting information for a combination of
the one or more voter categories selected.

5   31. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein
the second instructions for providing the requested voter
voting information include instructions for providing a
dynamically updated display of the requested voter voting
information.

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32. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein
the second instructions for providing the requested voter
voting information include instructions for providing
voter comments entered by voters included in the voter
15   voting information.

33. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein
the request for voter voting information includes a
request for voter voting information for voters having
20   similar characteristics as a user that submitted the
request.

34. The computer program product of claim 33, wherein
the second instructions for providing the requested voter
25   voting information include:
        instructions for retrieving characteristics for the
user; and
        instructions for searching a voter database for
voter entries corresponding to one or more of the
30   characteristics for the user.

Docket No. AUS920010645US1

35. The computer program product of claim 33, wherein the second instructions for providing the requested voter voting information include instructions for providing a ranking of an amount of similarity between other voters'

5   characteristics and the user's characteristics.

36. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the third instructions for receiving a vote based on the voter voting information include instructions for

10   receiving an indication of whether the vote is permanent or non-final.

37. The computer program product of claim 36, wherein if the vote is non-final, the vote may be changed within a

15   predetermined period of time from when the vote was received.

38. The computer program product of 21, wherein the voter voting information includes information regarding

20   non-final votes and permanent votes cast by voters, and wherein the second instructions for providing the voter voting information include instructions for providing non-final votes in a format different from permanent votes.

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39. The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising:

    fourth instructions for storing an indication of the vote in association with voter characteristic information

30   of the voter that submitted the vote.

Docket No. AUS920010645US1

40. The computer program product of claim 39, wherein the fourth instructions for storing an indication of the vote further include instructions for storing an indication of the status of the vote as being either

5   non-final or permanent.

41. An apparatus for providing collaborative voting, comprising:

    means for receiving a request for voter voting

10   information;

    means for providing the requested voter voting information in an anonymous manner such that the identities of individual voters are not disclosed; and

    means for receiving a vote based on the voter voting

15   information.

42. A method for providing collaborative voting, comprising:

    a first interface through which a selection of one

20   or more voter characteristics is received, wherein a search of voter voting information is performed based on the selection of one or more voter characteristics; and

    a second interface through which results of the search of voter voting information are provided in an

25   anonymous manner such that the identities of individual voters are not disclosed.

43. The method of claim 42, wherein the first interface includes a field for entering a group identifier as one

30   of the one or more voter characteristics.

Docket No.   AUS920010645US1

44.   The method of claim 42, wherein the first interface
includes a field for selecting an option to find voter
voting information for voters have characteristics
similar to a user of the first interface.

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45.   The method of claim 42, wherein the first interface
includes a plurality of fields for selecting the one or
more voter characteristics and a plurality of
corresponding fields for selecting whether a voter having

10   a corresponding one of the one or more voter
characteristics is to be included in the search results
or not included in the search results.

46.   The method of claim 42, wherein the second interface

15   includes a portion for outputting results of the search
of voter voting information for each of the one or more
selected voter characteristics.

47.   The method of claim 46, wherein the second interface

20   further includes a portion for outputting results of the
search of voter voting information for a combination of
the one or more selected voter characteristics.

48.   The method of claim 42, wherein the second interface

25   is dynamically updated.

49.   The method of claim 42, wherein the second interface
includes a field for outputting individual voter profiles
of voters included in the results of the search of voter

30   voting information.

Docket No.   AUS920010645US1

50.   The method of claim 42, wherein the second interface includes a field for outputting comments submitted by individual voters included in the results of the search of the voter voting information.

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51.   The method of claim 42, further comprising a third interface through which a user may submit a vote, wherein when the user submits the vote, the second interface is updated.